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Father Darkleaf

BY
CALVIN ROBINSON

Insofar as I am concerned, 1978 is off to a good start. Folks I meet along the way, appear happy and confident. As I recall it, 1977 came in like a lion. Very cold. And followed by an unusually dry summer. My garden was a complete flop. But 1977 was, generally, a very good year. Especially for my favorite baseball team, the N.Y. Yankees. Sports featured the news all year, but at the moment I have seen enough football to last a spell. Good games, great crowds, top entertainment, for sure, but there is a point of saturation. That is, AFTER the Super Bowl game.

* * *

And 'tis the season for Resolutions. How are you doing with your New Year Resolutions? I am doing swell. Have not broken any resolutions for the simple reason that I did not make any.

* * *

Maybe the biggest thing in favor of 1978 as we begin the year is that there are no major wars. Recent efforts for world understanding have revealed that deep in the heart, the people of the world desire peace. You see it in their faces, you sense it in their reactions to efforts for understanding.

As yes, there are staggering problems, many of them bone of the bone and flesh of the flesh. And new ones will appear, often catching us unprepared. But many hope that the world can unite in seeking to solve the problem of energy, the fight on inflation, the cause of religion, education, health.

* * *

Appomattox is in good shape for 1978. We have the basic requirements for a good year. It is up to each one of us to play on the team. Early this morning I rode through town and the Merry Christmas banner was still up on Main Street. It helped to make us have a fine Christmas. But this morning, I wished that that banner had been replaced by one reading, **Welcome Seventy-Eight!**

* * *

At 1:35 p.m. Sunday heard the first local fire alarm of '78. Do not know when the Rescue Squad got its first call of the new year. But I do know that volunteers are standing by to help YOU.

* * *

According to the Chinese calendar, 1978 is The Year of The Horse. Many Americans will make it The Year of the New Car.

* * *

I liked the book, especially the title. Received at Christmas a copy of "Let The Glory Out" by former Tennessee Senator Albert Gore.

* * *

Put up your new calendars yet? I secured three a week or so ago, but did not get them in place until Jan. 2. Two items from the new calendar . . . January has a Friday the thirteenth, and Easter Sunday comes on March 26.

* * *

I have said that I made no New Year Resolutions, but I do plan to read a book a week, and to study classical poetry. Currently I am reading the poetry of William Wordsworth. In his Hart-Leap Well are the lines . . .

The moving accident is not my
trade;
To freeze the blood I have no
ready arts:
'Tis my delight, alone in
summer shade,
To pipe a simply song for think-
ing hearts.

* * *

May 1978 be your best year, and may you welcome The Times-Virginian into your home each week. Thanks for reading and seeya next week.

Town Manager Spoke To Woman's Club Tuesday

When the Appomattox Woman's Club met on Tuesday night at the Farmers National Bank, Triangle Plaza Branch, W. R. Britton, Jr. was guest speaker at the meeting.

Britton, Town Manager and Special Projects Assistant to the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors and the Emergency Services Coordinator for County of Appomattox, talked about the Appomattox Comprehensive Planning, the Central Virginia Planning District plans in general, and the Emergency Services Operations plan for Appomattox.

Britton stated that the Comprehensive Plan is mandated by the State of Virginia and the Emergency Services Plan is a mandate by the Federal government to the Central Virginia Planning District. Plans are now done in districts instead of by local government agencies.

W. R. Britton, Jr.

In his position, Britton is interested in hearing the feelings of groups such as the Woman's Club and will be happy to speak to other groups. If interested, contact W. R. Britton, Jr. and set up a date for getting this information to other citizens in the county.

School Board To Meet January 11

The Appomattox County School Board will meet in regular session on Wednesday, January 11, 1978, at 7 p.m. in the school board office.

Items on the agenda include consideration of vocational and special education plans, review of projected enrollment and personnel needs for 1978-79, preliminary budget consideration for 1978-79, attendance report, and financial report.

AUTO LICENSES ON SALE IN PAMPLIN

Auto Licenses for the Town of Pamplin are being sold at the Town Office in Pamplin each week day from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Saturday hours, only during the month of January, are from 9 a.m. to noon.

Local Governments Will Support Regional Drug Squad

The past success of the Regional Drug Investigation Squad has led local governments to agree to total financial support of the program.

The district's 10 jurisdictions with law enforcement agencies will finance the squad's operating budget of $12,566 for the current year. The squad has been in operation for five years with funding from the Virginia Council on Criminal Justice which expired this year.

Participating jurisdictions include the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford and Campbell and the cities of Bedford and Lynchburg and the towns of Amherst, Appomattox, Altavista and Brookneal. The four counties and two cities are members of the Central Virginia Planning District Commission.

Each jurisdiction will pay a base share of $750 for the program's operating costs with the remainder pro-rated according to population.

Authorities say the regional squad is a definite advantage in controlling drug traffic, as officers can cross jurisdictional boundaries with the power of arrest being valid outside their own area.

"The man peddling drugs has no boundaries," said Sam Trent, commander of investigations for the Lynchburg Police Department, who heads the squad.

The biggest case handled by the squad was the seizure of some five thousand kilos of marijuana which totaled a street value of over $3 million. The arrests were made in Buckingham County in July. Trent said the investigation of the case began in Lynchburg. The squad also cooperates with investigators throughout adjoining districts.

During 1976, 216 arrests were made throughout the district and narcotics seized totaling $54,562 by the Regional Drug Investigation Squad. Authorities note that robbery, burglary and larceny cases are also decreased by the squad's efforts, as an estimated 30 percent of these crimes are committed by drug addicts and users.

The squad is headquartered in the Lynchburg Police Department (LPD) and coordinated by John McCane of the LPD. Investigators and undercover agents for the squad are provided by each jurisdiction on a rotating basis. Special training within the squad and through seminars is provided.

"Regionalization provides more money and more manpower for drug investigation," Trent said. He said Central Virginia is the first area of the state to strongly promote this cooperative effort in law enforcement.

"Regionalizaiton is a growing thing," Trent noted, adding that he expects the trend to continue.

Sheriff Gene Richardson of Appomattox County said the squad has been of much value.

"Without a doubt, drugs would be a bigger problem without the regional cooperation in investigaiton," he said.

Sheriff Mahlon Bryant of Amherst County agreed that the squad is a "good concept." He said the squad has helped with several cases in his own county.

"We have seen great things from the squad and will see tremendous things in the future as it develops further," he said.

Sheriff Charlie A. Hodnett of Campbell County agreed that the squad does "Outstanding work." He called the unit "one of the better regional programs," saying, "we would not have as many drug cases in the courts without the work of the Regional Drug Investigation Squad."

COURTLAND OFFICE BUILDING, located on the site where the "old S. L. Ferguson homeplace" stood for many years, just across Court Street opposite the Court House Square, takes on shape as construction of the building moves along. Clover Hill Manufacturing Company is contractor for the 128 X 32 square foot office building. At the present time, workers are ready to begin brick laying, they have partially completed the mechanical "rough-in" work. The building is being constructed in compliance with the new energy recommendations with six inch insulated sides and eight inch insulation overhead and will be heated and cooled with heat pumps. Completion date has been scheduled for early spring. The first floor space has already been leased, however, the 3500 square foot basement space, facing on Atwood Street, is still available. This floor of the building will be completed to suit the needs of renters.

Armstrong Furniture

A Closer Look At Industry In Appomattox

By Frances H. Paulette

A major concern of any family contemplating a move to any given locality is the opportunity for employment for family members. Appomattox has much to offer; industries in the town, the immediate area, and industries within commuting distance provide almost unlimited opportunities.

One of the most recent additions to the industrial picture of Appomattox is the Armstrong Furniture Plant which had its beginning in our town in June of 1973.

Starting out as Thomasville Furniture, not too much time passed before there was a name change and people had to get used to the name Transmark. This, however, was short lived and the name was again changed, this time to Armstrong Furniture.

The parent corporation, Armstrong Cork, had its orgin in Pittsburg, Pa. in the 1860's. The plant was successfully turning out cork stoppers for bottles. The plant engineers', concerned about the amount of wasted cork after the stoppers were cut, began looking around for ways to utilize the leftover cork. In their search, they found that linoleum, the most popular floor covering of that period (possibly the only one), had cork as a filler. With this, the company expanded and began to develop and produce quality floor coverings. From floor coverings they went on to ceiling tile. Incidentally ceiling tile is the second largest division.

It was in the 1960's that the Armstrong Cork Company made a major commitment to home furnishings when they began to include the well known slogan, "The Indoor World of Armstrong" in their advertising. Such advertising showed just how beautiful and easy to keep a home could be with Armstrong Products.

Company officials began planning for a line of furniture in the popular price range that would appeal to the general public. In 1968 Armstrong Cork merged with Thomasville Industries, approximately 20 plants.

Thomasville Furniture was producing furniture of excellent quality and to market a good line of furniture, popular in price, would in some instance be misleading to the Thomasville line and also to the new, lower priced line; thus the name, Armstrong Furniture, growing out of Thomasville Furniture and Armstrong Cork.

The local plant of Armstrong Cork, Armstrong Furniture, Bill Lowe, plant manager, employs in excess of 600 people, and is proud to provide furniture to the Holiday Inn chain and furniture for the rental industry, among others.

Armstrong, Appomattox is proud that you are a part of our industrial picture!

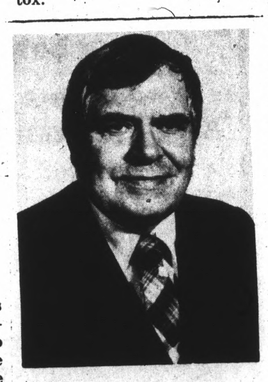
Next week, we'll take a look at oher industries in Appomattox.

Family Loses Everything In New Year's Day Fire

A fire at 1:15 p.m. on New Year's Day claimed a house on State Road 647 near Spout Spring and all the possessions of the four adults and five children living in the Juanita Christian home.

Three trucks and 15 volunteer firemen from the Appomattox Fire Department, the Appomattox County Sheriff's Department, and two units from the Concord Fire Department battled the blaze for two and a half hours but due to the lack of water at the scene were unable to control the fire.

Anyone wishing to donate furniture or clothing for this family may call 352-5982 or 352-8504 for information.



DR. M. W. WILLIAMSON

To Be Ordained

Dr. Mervyn W. Williamson, professor of English at Lynchburg College and an Appomattox County native, will be ordained into the Christian ministry Sunday, January 15, at Gordonsville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for a number of years, Dr. Williamson has served more than two years as part-time minister of the Gordonsville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He is being sponsored for ordination by the Gordonsville church and co-sponsored by Euclid Christian Church, Lynchburg, and The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia, headquartered in Richmond.

Dr. Williamson received his education at Appomattox public schools, Lynchburg College, and the University of Texas. He has taught English and philosophy at Lynchburg College, the University of Texas, and Culver-Stockton College, Canton, Mo. He has held part-time ministries or served a supply minister in Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Virginia.

He is son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Williamson of Appomattox, and his wife is the former Rhoda Ruth Lott, a native of Texas.

Participating in the service,

Appomattox County Extension Office Welcomes Miss Hudson

Miss Pat Hudson, an Appomattox County native, is being welcomed as a new Appomattox Extension Staff member by Mr. James A. Smith, Unit Chairman.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lloyd Hudson, Pat is an honor graduate of Appomattox County High School and a graduate of Longwood College with a B. S. Degree in Home Economics Education. While a student at Longwood, Pat was a member of the home economics honorary organization, Kappa Omicron Phi.

We, the Appomattox County Extension Staff, welcome Pat as our newest team member.

USDA Considering Change In Flue-Cured Tobacco Program

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Tobacco Task Force recommends modifying the price support eligibility provisions for flue-cured tobacco.

The modification would become effective for 1978 and would allow growers, on a voluntary basis, to market a larger share of their poundage quota in higher value, upper stalk leaf. Under the proposed change, growers could plant up to 120 percent of the farm acreage allotment and receive price support if they agree not to harvest the four lower leaves of each stalk. Producers who do not agree, must plant no more than 100 percent of their acreage allotments to be eligible for price support. Under the 1977 program, plantings were limited to 110 percent of the farm acreage allotment as a condition for price support. This provision would be reviewed annually thereafter.

The Tobacco Task Force was created by the Secretary of Agriculture to review and develop recommendations for modernizing the tobacco program. No other recommendations of the Task Force are expected to be completed in time to be proposed for 1978 crop operations.

The proposed revision announced today reflects producers views as well as buyers who urged the necessity of producing more upper stalk tobacco to supply foreign marketings. The Task Force held seven field hearings in September and October in the five-State flue-cured belt.

The proposed change would help to strengthen the Tobacco Price Support Program by reducing the possibility of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) losses on large quantities of lower stalk flue-cured tobacco currently under loan and expected to be placed under loan from future crops. The change would also enable growers to share in additional foreign tobacco markets. Producers would produce and market more upper stalk tobacco in substitution for lower stalk tobacco for which demand is weak. Present loan stocks of lower stalk tobacco represent about a two-year supply. Demand is expected to remain strong for upper stalk graders which typically are bought for export and provide producers higher net returns.

The overall support level is set by law and would not be affected. To the extent producers enter into agreements at their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) offices not to harvest lower stalk tobacco, the anticipated grade percentages which are used in determining the grade loan rates would change.

The grade percentages which will apply to the 1978 crop have not been determined, but the following example illustrates what approximate changes would result if agreements are executed for about 50 percent of the 1978 crop. Because the anticipated percentage of the upper stalk grades which have the higher grade loan rates will be increased by the agreements, the grade loan rates will be increased by the agreements, the grade loan rates to average the support level will be lower. For example, if grade loan rates averaged $1.31 a pound on the upper stalk grades and $1.01 a pound on the lower stalk, grades would average $1.22 a pound if the marketings are 70 percent upper stalk grades and 30 percent lower stalk grades. The same average would result from grade loan rates averaging $1.29 a pound on the upper stalk grades and $1.00 a pound on the lower stalk grades if the marketings are 76 percent upper stalk grades and 24 percent lower stalk grades.

This proposed change will be published in the Federal Register, with public comments due 30 days after publication in the register, or earlier. Comments should be sent to Director, Price Support and Loan Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture, ASCS, P. O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. All written submissions will be made available for public inspection during regular business hours in room 5751 of the Department's South Building.

Farm Receipts In County, $5,356,000

NEW YORK - To what extent have Appomattox County farmers been affected by the adverse conditions that have been troubling growers and cattle raisers in general? How well did they make out, under the circumstances, in the past year?

All in all, they will remember 1976 as not the best and not the worst of years. Their overall receipts from the sale of crops, livestock and other farm products compared favorably with those reported for many parts of the country.

It was a year in which growers were hurt by a downtrend in prices for their products in the last half of the year, according to the Farm Index of the Department of Agriculture.

The drop was counterbalanced to a large degree, however, by increased production. What made the huge harvest possible was bigger plantings, generally favorable weather conditions, more intensive use of herbicides and fertilizers and improved efficiency.

Although gross receipts were still at a high level, so were operating expenses. They soared skyward, cutting into the gross, as inflation continued.

In Appomattox County, according to figures compiled by the Standard Rate and Data Service, farm receipts in the past year came to $5,356,000. The year before they totaled $5,381,000.

The drop, 0.5 percent, compares with a 2.4 percent drop in the United States.

The income figure refers to gross receipts, before outlays for labor, fuel, taxes, equipment, fertilizer and the like were taken into account.

The bulk of it came from the marketing of crops, livestock and other farm products. The remainder consisted of govern-

Continued on Page 2

Fire Calls . . .

When the "fire alarm" starts to sound off many people rush to the telephone and call the fire line to ask where the fire is. Members of the Appomattox County Volunteer Fire Department are asking that YOU DO NOT CALL in on the fire line. This ties the line up and calls can not be dispatched properly. When there is a fire, find out its location another way, these people are quite busy and need to keep their telephone line free.